



**In Cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship**  
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## Hired Workers Down 2 Percent, Wage Rates up 3 Percent

There were 903,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 12-18, 2009, down 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 680,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 223,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.84 per hour during the April 2009 reference week, up 27 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.99 per hour, up 34 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$10.25 per hour compared with \$10.24 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.07 per hour, was up 23 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.1 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 2 percent from a year ago.

### Farm Labor: Employment, Wage Rates, and Hired Workers, Regional and U.S.

Year and Month			Hired Workers <sup>1</sup>			
	Hired Workers	Hours Worked	Wage Rates for Type of Worker			
			Field	Livestock	Field & Livestock	All Hired Workers
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>----- Dollars per Hour -----</i>			
<b><u>CORN BELT II REGION<sup>2</sup></u></b>						
<b><u>2007</u></b>						
January <sup>3</sup>						
April	21	38.8	9.60	10.46	10.00	10.63
July	24	38.0	9.44	11.37	10.40	10.90
October	23	41.0	10.69	10.90	10.80	11.25
<b><u>2008</u></b>						
January	27	36.8	11.38	10.82	10.90	11.42
April	21	38.2	10.65	12.20	11.50	11.88
July	28	35.6	10.29	9.23	9.90	10.25
October	32	37.0	10.62	11.37	10.90	11.50
<b><u>2009</u></b>						
January	20	34.0	11.06	11.27	11.20	11.40
April	22	31.8	10.35	12.45	11.15	11.80
<b><u>UNITED STATES</u></b>						
<b><u>2007</u></b>						
January <sup>3</sup>						
April	736	40.7	9.35	9.59	9.42	10.20
July	843	41.4	9.24	9.73	9.37	9.99
October	817	42.2	9.62	10.02	9.73	10.38
<b><u>2008</u></b>						
January	594	38.4	9.67	10.18	9.88	10.81
April	700	40.8	9.65	10.24	9.84	10.57
July	828	40.5	9.66	9.98	9.74	10.34
October	804	41.4	10.05	10.21	10.09	10.70
<b><u>2009</u></b>						
January	595	38.3	9.96	10.27	10.08	10.93
April	680	40.1	9.99	10.25	10.07	10.84

<sup>1</sup> Includes all workers and methods of pay except those workers paid by piece rate. <sup>2</sup> Corn Belt II Region: Iowa, Missouri <sup>3</sup> Because of budget constraints, NASS did not conduct the January Agricultural Labor Survey, which provides the data for the report.